

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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FROM STATE/AID/LABOR

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:ILO:OTRA

SUBJECT:ASIAN REGIONAL MEETING ON ILO WORLD EMPLOYMENT
CONFERENCE

REF: EMBTEL 5823 STATE 73126

1. SUBJECT MEETING WILL BE PREPARATORY TO ILO WORLD EMPLOY-
MENT CONFERENCE IN JUNE. IT IS LIKELY TO REACH CONCLUSIONS
AND MAY PROPOSE RESOLUTIONS FOR CONFERENCE. BASIC TO AGENDA
IS ILO CONCEPT OF BASIC NEEDS STRATEGY OF DEVELOPMENT,
CENTERED ON EMPLOYMENT, WHICH OFFICE CLAIMS SUPERSEDES OTHER
GROWTH STRATEGIES. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS DEAL WITH APPROPRIATE
TECHNOLOGY, INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER MOVEMENTS, ADJUSTMENT
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ASSISTANCE, AND ROLE OF MULTINATIONALS IN CREATING EMPLOY-

MENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. IN ADDITION TO LABOR REPORTING OFFICER, REQUEST EMBASSY

ASSIGN OFFICER MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE THESE FIELDS TO WORK WITH
GOVERNMENT DELEGATE JAMES QUACKENBUSH AT MEETING.

3. CONFERENCE PROVIDES FORUM FOR POLITICAL MISCHIEF RANG-
ING FAR BEYOND THE COMPETENCE OF THE ILO AND WE ARE
INTERESTED IN PERSUADING THOSE ATTENDING, TO THE DEGREE IT
IS POSSIBLE, NOT TO SUBMIT OR SUPPORT SUCH RESOLUTIONS. AN
EXAMINATION OF WHAT ILO CAN ACTUALLY DO ABOUT PROBLEMS OF
EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT MIGHT PROVIDE A FOCUS ON MORE
REALISTIC AND MANAGEABLE GOALS. IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF
ALL PARTICIPANTS TO GO INTO JUNE CONFERENCE WITH MODERATE
AND REALISTIC ATTITUDES TOWARD WHAT CAN BE DONE. THESE
ATTITUDES ARE NOT REFLECTED IN THE ILO CONFERENCE DOCUMENT,
NOR IN THE UNSUBSTANTIATED ASSERTION OF ITS BASIC NEEDS
STRATEGY.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE WRITTEN SUMMARY BY OFFICER DETAILING
ASIAN VIEWS AT MEETINGS FOR USE BY REQUESTING AGENCIES
IN PREPARING FOR JUNE CONFERENCE. WE DO NOT YET HAVE
POSITION PAPERS, BUT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHAT
RESOLUTIONS ARE CONTEMPLATED, HOW ASIANS ASSESS THE BASIC
NEEDS STRATEGY AND ILO TARGET TIMES, THE PROPOSED ILO
ROLES, THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONALS, AND THE DEGREE TO
WHICH ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT ILO
INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES FOR A CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND AN INTERNATIONAL APPROPRIATE
TECHNOLOGY UNIT. ILO PAPER OMITTS MEANINGFUL CONSIDERATION
OF POPULATION PROBLEMS, AND ASIAN REACTION TO THAT ALSO
OF INTEREST. KISSINGER

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